

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5142

To provide for the establishment of a program at the National Science Foundation to increase the population of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics undergraduate students through a scholarship program to increase the business, industrial, academic, and scientific workforce, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a program at the National Science Foundation to increase the population of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics undergraduate students through a scholarship program to increase the business, industrial, academic, and scientific workforce, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Science
3 Foundation Scholars Program Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a
6 program to provide scholarships to students in science,
7 technology, engineering, or mathematics programs at in-
8 stitutions of higher education in the United States.

9 (b) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

10 (1) PREAPPLICATION INFORMATION.—The Di-
11 rector shall make available to potential scholarship
12 applicants information relating to the scholarship
13 program, including—

14 (A) a description of expectations for the
15 success of scholarship recipients in school; and

16 (B) any other information the Director
17 considers appropriate.

18 (2) DEADLINE.—Complete applications shall be
19 due by January 1 of each year. No applications re-
20 ceived after such date shall be considered.

21 (3) SELECTION.—The Director shall select
22 scholarship recipients not later than April 15 of each
23 year.

24 (4) NOTIFICATION.—The Director shall develop
25 a system to ensure prompt notification to applicants

1 of their selection for a scholarship, including notifi-
2 cation by at least 2 of the following methods:

3 (A) E-mail.

4 (B) Telephone.

5 (C) Mail.

6 (c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Scholarships shall be
7 awarded under this section on the basis of merit, high
8 school class rank, a personal essay on a topic chosen by
9 the Director, and letters of recommendation of a number
10 and type determined by the Director, with consideration
11 given to financial need and the goal of providing support
12 to members of underrepresented groups, within the mean-
13 ing of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 1885 et seq.).

15 (d) AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.—A scholarship
16 award under this section shall be in an amount sufficient
17 to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, and fees at
18 the institution of higher education the student is attend-
19 ing, not to exceed \$20,000 per year.

20 (e) LIMITATION.—A student may not receive scholar-
21 ships under this section for more than 5 years of under-
22 graduate study.

23 (f) TERMINATION.—A student who has received
24 scholarship support under this section for a year who fails
25 to maintain appropriate academic achievement, as deter-

1 mined by the Director on the basis of the student's tran-
2 script and a letter written by the student's advisor assess-
3 ing in detail the progress of the student, shall not have
4 the scholarship renewed for subsequent years.

5 (g) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—To the extent pos-
6 sible, the Director shall ensure that scholarships under
7 this section are distributed among the States, including
8 commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United
9 States, proportionally to the size of their congressional del-
10 egations.

11 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSITY GRANTS.**

12 The Director shall establish a program to award an-
13 nual grants of \$5,000 to institutions of higher education
14 at which 10 or more undergraduates are receiving a schol-
15 arship under this Act to develop and implement programs
16 for—

17 (1) monthly gathering of such scholarship re-
18 cipients to hear and ask questions of a speaker in
19 a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
20 discipline working in business, industry, elementary
21 or secondary education, or at a museum or other in-
22 formal educational organization;

23 (2) annual poster sessions in which such schol-
24 arship recipients present their research experience

1 to, among others, high school students who are po-
2 tential applicants for a scholarship under this Act;

3 (3) other outreach to middle school and high
4 school students; and

5 (4) mentoring for the scholarship recipients.

6 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESPONSIBIL-**
7 **ITIES.**

8 The Director shall—

9 (1) annually report to the Congress on the sta-
10 tus of programs implemented under this Act, includ-
11 ing—

12 (A) aggregate data on scholarship recipi-
13 ents, not including any personally identifying
14 data;

15 (B) the geographic distribution of scholar-
16 ship awards;

17 (C) activities of scholarship recipients after
18 receiving their undergraduate degree;

19 (D) any changes made to those programs;
20 and

21 (E) responses to any other congressional
22 inquiries; and

23 (2) establish and maintain a website for cur-
24 rent, former, and potential scholarship recipients to

1 share ideas, contribute to issue forums, present
2 work, and learn about research opportunities.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
5 tional Science Foundation for carrying out this Act—

6 (1) \$242,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

7 (2) \$726,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

8 (3) \$1,695,500,000 for fiscal year 2009;

9 (4) \$2,180,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

10 (5) \$2,664,500,000 for fiscal year 2011.

11 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

12 For purposes of this Act—

13 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of
14 the National Science Foundation; and

15 (2) the term “institution of higher education”
16 has the meaning given that term in section 101 of
17 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
18 1001).

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